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EGYPT: The government's denial of a recent serious coup attempt appears correct, but President Sadat faces continuing domestic problems. (Page 5)

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EGYPT: The government's denial that a serious coup attempt was made against it earlier this month appears correct, but President Sadat faces continuing domestic problems.

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[redacted] the incident on 12 October was limited to a public haranguing of crowds by elements of an armored personnel carrier unit led by an apparently deranged captain. The captain criticized President Sadat for failing to press the war with Israel and also attacked the proposed union with Libya. A number of officers and men were subsequently arrested, including the general in charge of the unit. Although the episode apparently was not part of a well-planned move against Sadat, it does reflect the general unhappiness over Egypt's dilemma and the dissatisfaction with Sadat's policies that is prevalent among some Egyptian civilians and military personnel.

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Rumors periodically circulate in Cairo that Sadat is fed up and is contemplating stepping down. There is little hard evidence, however, that he intends to do so in the near future, and there are no signs of any concerted move being planned against him.

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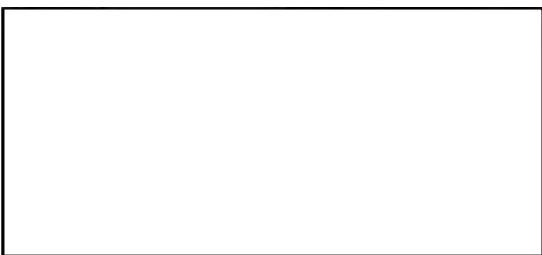
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